

September Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes - **APPROVED**

Tuesday, September 21 –5:00 pm - Memorial Park large pavilion near bathrooms or via Zoom

Present in-person: Kevin Stottlemyer, Cindy Unangst, Doug Martin, Pam McDonald, Ann Payne, Sean O’Keefe

On Zoom: Kristin King, Erin Carney, Bill Spare, Mark Carney

Meeting discussion items:

1. July and August meeting minutes approved.
2. Jessica Elder will step back from the Green Team. She would like to be kept in the loop for video projects. We will need to find a new social media person.
3. Guest attendee – Ben Friton from The Reed Center. 158 acre property in Middletown Valley. Turning 128 acres of GMO corn into regenerative farm. Food forestry. Can produce 50x the food with needed labor pool. Cindy asked about Reed Center helping with growing native trees to healthy size for Middletown residents. He is interested. He shared his contact information and invited the Green Team to visit: ben@thereedcenter.org; thereedcenter.org 1932 Mountain Church Road, Middletown, MD 301-520-3431. Ben offered his assistance as needed for Green Team projects.
4. The Green Team was the cover story of the September Neighbors of Middletown magazine.
5. Mayors Monarch Pledge – Girl Scout Gold Award project. Kaiya not able to join the meeting tonight. Cindy is her advisor and has questions on the proposal and has reached out to her and is awaiting a response.
6. Reports will need to be filed for Bee City USA (Mark Carney); Tree City USA and Pollinator Pledge (Cindy Unangst). Cindy is keeping track of deadlines and will coordinate.
7. BASECAMP projects:
 - Pollinator demonstration gardens – spring-blooming plants and edging for Memorial Park. The team discussed the fall and spring plant selections and purchasing. It seems to make sense to wait til spring when all of the varieties can be procured. Cindy looked at stone for the edging path that is available from the town—we can use with metal edging. Weed cloth for under stone path—Ben of the Reed Center has some we can use.
 - Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle fall planting—Cindy has collected and sent in soil samples- awaiting results.
 - Pollinator garden care schedule; Cindy has asked students at MHS AP Environmental class if they need community service hours for weeding/maintenance. Pam and Ann will create garden care list and schedule.
 - Compost project – discussion of survey for resident interest. Locations: Elm Street parking lot near Dempsey’s or lot by Main Cup. If we need to add a second one bin— additional \$28/month. PR will be needed: Add a page to our web site; pass out flyers with school packets about composting; add info flyer to the town mailer with water bill; post on our social media; email blast to residents. We are fully funded for the pilot project for the first year.
 - Lunch Out Of Landfills—14 Middletown students going to Bar-T Ranch for training (along with other schools) on Saturday, 9/25. AP Environmental class will also send some students. Elementary school 5th grade only, Middle and High school. Joe wants to get HS kids involved to be ambassadors for other schools. Joe is trying to use all students to run the program. He said the county is paying for the program.

- Other news from Joe Richardson: Trex recycling pickup for plastics to be established in Middletown.
8. Tree plantings – October 15th shrub planting event along Hollow Creek. Park on Layla Drive and take paved pathway to Hollow Road where plantings will be. Will be planting 50 shrubs. Meet between 8:30 and 9 a.m. Bring shovels, gloves, wear boots, picks. Volunteers will need to dig holes and plant the shrubs.
 9. Tree canopy estimate for town of Middletown. Ben has a team and does assessments and will look into helping the town do the tree canopy assessment for a donation. (Cindy had researched this and found the cost to be prohibitive).
 10. Potomac Edison program for next spring. Budget amendment was approved by the town to fund this. MUCF funding will be pursued by Cindy for \$1,000. Will do 100 trees for homeowners and 100 for the town. Will be in the spring of 2022. We will look into having an incentive program such as a free donut or cup of coffee for keeping a tree alive for x months.
 11. Heritage Day Festival: Booth in front of Town Hall. Gift tree program flyer and applications. We have one rain barrel and one compost bin to be raffled off. Pollinator information; composting info, Parade at 10 a.m. goes until 5 p.m. Cindy completed schedule and the Green Team booth is fully staffed for the day.
 12. Gift Tree Program – sites to install flyer boxes (most bang for the buck). Where to install them? Cone Branch Trail, Remsberg park, Wiles Branch park were ideas.
 13. Mark Carney and Ann Payne were nominated by Cindy for FC Sustainability Commission award. Cindy recognized them for all of their efforts for the Green Team!
 14. Compost bins – Greenbelt has extra that we can purchase, but we would need to pick them up. We will raffle one a compost bin at Heritage Day.
 15. October meeting date – third Tuesday – October 19th